

HOUSE BILL 346

By Hackworth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 51 and Title 38, relative to certain
vulnerable persons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 1, is amended by adding
the following as a new part:

38-1-601. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Senior
Alert Act."

38-1-602. As used in this part, the term:

(1) "Alert system" means the state-wide "Senior" alert system for missing
disabled adults;

(2) "Bureau" means the Tennessee bureau of investigation;

(3) "Disabled adult" means an adult who is developmentally impaired or
who suffers from dementia or some other cognitive impairment or who may be
reasonably believed to be disabled in the absence of a formal diagnosis of
cognitive impairment; and

(4) "Local law enforcement agency" means a local law enforcement
agency with jurisdiction over the investigation of a missing disabled adult.

38-1-603. With the cooperation of the office of the governor, the Tennessee
Education Lottery Corporation, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies in this
state, the bureau shall develop and implement a state-wide alert system to be activated
on behalf of missing disabled adults.

38-1-604. With the cooperation of the office of the governor, the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies in this state the Tennessee bureau of investigation shall establish a silver alert system. The purpose of the silver alert system is to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

38-1-605. If the Tennessee bureau of investigation receives a report that involves a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment, for the protection of the missing person from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect or exploitation, the bureau shall issue an alert providing for rapid dissemination of information statewide regarding the missing person. The bureau shall make every effort to disseminate the information as quickly as possible when the missing person is eighteen (18) years of age or older, and the person's status as missing has been reported to a law enforcement agency.

38-1-606. The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall adopt guidelines and adopt procedures for issuing an alert for missing persons believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment and shall encourage radio and television broadcasters to participate in the alert. No specific health information about the missing person shall be made public through an alert or otherwise.

38-1-607. The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall consult with the department of transportation to develop a formal plan for the use of department equipment and facilities to provide information on missing adults meeting the provisions of this act when such information would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing person. The Tennessee bureau of investigation and the department of

transportation shall develop guidelines for the content, length and frequency of any message to be placed on an overhead permanent changeable message sign.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-51-134, is amended by deleting the language "AMBER ALERT program" and by substituting instead the language "AMBER ALERT and Senior Alert programs".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.